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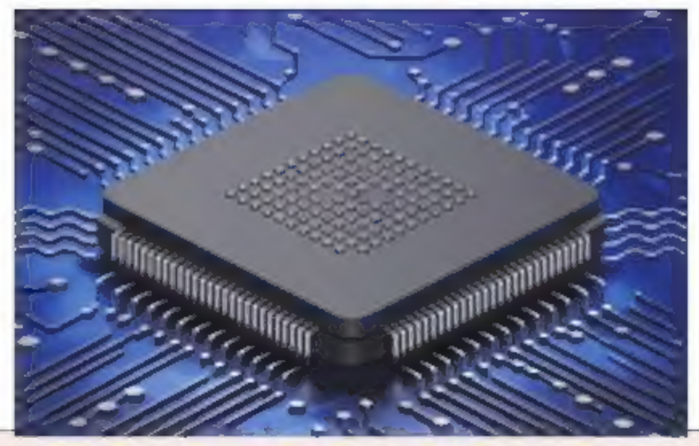

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SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION

U.S. ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA ON SEMICONDUCTORS

The US announced on Monday it is entering into a partnership with India's Semiconductor Mission launched by the Centre in 2022

TO GROW AND DIVERSIFY GLOBAL CHIP INDUSTRY

The two countries will work together to boost the growth and diversification of the global semiconductor ecosystem amid increasing reliance on chips and concerns over the resilience of their supply chains. As a first step, a detailed assessment of India's existing semiconductor ecosystem will be done that will form the basis for future joint initiatives, the US State Department said

PARTNERSHIP UNDER BIDEN'S CHIPS ACT 2022

- The partnership will come under the International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) Fund created through the CHIPS Act of 2022 — an initiative of President Joe Biden's administration
- One of the aims of the CHIPS Act is to diversify the semiconductor supply chain to minimise the risk of large-scale disruptions

$500 mn

IS HOW MUCH THE ITSI FUND PROVIDES THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT EACH YEAR

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5 pm today deadline for WB docs to resume work

SC says protest cannot be at the cost of duty; agitators defiant

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

Protesting junior doctors of RG Kar watch the live proceedings of the Supreme Court hearing on the rape-murder of a trainee doctor, in Kolkata on Monday | PTI

THE Supreme Court on Monday gave the protesting junior doctors in West Bengal 24 hours to join work, failing which they will not get any judicial protection. "Protest cannot be at the cost of duty," a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud observed. It directed them to get back to work by 5 pm on Tuesday and assured that there will be no adverse action if they resume duty.

The junior doctors have been on protest since August 9, demanding justice for the rape-murder of a trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The direction came after West Bengal's counsel said 23 people have died in the state due to the mass abstention of resident doctors.

The court noted that funds have been sanctioned by the state government for setting up additional CCTV cameras and for the safety of doctors. It also directed the state government to coordinate with the CISF — tasked with providing security at RG Kar — for giving them suitable accommodation and providing security gadgets to its personnel.

But the junior doctors in West Bengal said they will continue their ceasework since they do not feel secure enough in their places of work.

The court also expressed serious concern over the absence of a challan, a key document for postmortem of the victim and sought a report from the West Bengal government. "Where is the challan of the body when it was handed over for postmortem?" it asked.

After examining the CBI's status report on the probe, the bench said, it is pursuing a few leads. "There was at least 14 hours delay in registration of the FIR on the rape-murder incident by the Kolkata Police. Two things are known — the time when the victim went to seminar hall to rest, and the movement around that room after that," the bench said and asked the CBI to file its next status report by September 16.

The court also directed the immediate removal of photographs of the victim from all social media platforms. P10

New GoM on insurance premium GST

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

AMID calls for a reduction in the tax rate on health and life insurance premiums, the GST Council meeting on Monday decided to form a Group of Ministers (GoM) to deliberate on the issue. The GoM will submit its report next month and the Council will take a call on this in its upcoming meet in November.

Monday's GST Council meeting, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, took several key decisions. The Council also recommended the formation of a separate GoM to study the future of compensation cess. By January 2026, the Centre is expected to clear back-to-back loan payments to states related to GST compensation, with total cess collections projected to reach ₹8.66 lakh crore and an estimated surplus of ₹40,000 crore after repayments, the FM said.

The Council also exempted supply of research and development services by a government entity, university, college or other institutions notified under Section 35 of the Income Tax Act. It may be recalled that IIT Delhi had got a show cause notice from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence over ₹120 crore.

"GST exemption on public & private research grants to higher education institutions is a major boost that shall not only increase research outcome but also achieve global tax parity. Indian academia is hugely relieved," said S Vaidhyasubramaniam, Vice-Chancellor of SASTRA University, which is among the institutions that had received show cause notice.

MAJOR DECISIONS

- GoM to look into GST on life insurance and health insurance
- GST on cancer drugs cut from 12% to 5%
- GST on helicopter services on seat-share basis cut to 5% from 18%; chartered services to attract 18%
- No decision on plan to levy 18% GST on small transactions below ₹2,000

EXPRESS READ

1,652-page chargesheet against Prajwal

Bengaluru: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Monday filed a 1,652-page chargesheet against former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna at the Special Court for trial of cases against sitting and former MPs/MLAs. The chargesheet is in connection with a rape complaint filed by a 44-year-old victim in the CID cybercrime police station | P4

Woman, daughter die as bus ploughs into crowd

Tumakuru: A woman and her 13-year-old daughter were killed and three others injured when a private bus ploughed through a crowd on NH-206 near Tiptur on Monday. Tension prevailed for sometime as locals staged a protest and prevented the shifting of the bodies | P5

'Darshan admitted to assaulting victim'

Bengaluru: The chargesheet in the Renukaswamy murder case reveals that actor Darshan told investigators that he assaulted the victim, but Renukaswamy was fine when he left a shed in Pattanagere, where the victim was allegedly confined and assaulted | P3

Guv clears only 3 of 11 bills pending with him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

GOVERNOR Thaawarchand Gehlot on Monday cleared only three of the 11 bills sent to him since January. The move is likely to escalate the standoff between the state government and Raj Bhavan.

He approved the Karnataka State Public Examination Bill, 2023, Renuka Yellamma Temple Development Authority Bill, 2024, and the Karnataka Municipality and Related Acts Amendment Bill, 2024.

The Town and Country Planning Amendment Bill, Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Amendment Bill, Karnataka Souharda Cooperative Amendment Bill, Registration - Amendment Bill, Cooperative Societies Amendment Bill, Gadag-Betageri Business, Culture and Exhibition Authority Bill, and the Cinema and Cultural Workers' Welfare Bill are to be cleared. P4

1st Indian mpox case tests +ve, govt issues advisory

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ Delhi

THE Centre on Monday wrote to all states and Union Territories (UTs) asking them to screen, test, and trace contacts of all suspected mpox patients.

It comes after India reported its first mpox case — after the latest WHO alert — in a man who arrived from a country experiencing mpox transmission. However, lab tests showed the man is infected with the older clade 2 strain of the virus, and not the deadlier and faster-spreading clade 1b that has led to a surge in cases worldwide and prompted the WHO to declare a public health emergency.

Union health secretary Apurva Chandra, in a letter to all the states and UTs, asked them to identify isolation units in hospitals for both suspected and confirmed cases. They must also review public health preparedness, particularly at the health facility level. He said sexual contact is the most commonly reported way of transmission, followed by person-to-person non-sexual contact. "Among cases where at least one symptom is reported, the most common symptom is rash, followed by fever," he wrote adding most cases are young males with a median age of 34. The states and UTs must spread awareness about the disease and prevent any undue panic.

Chandra said health units at points of entry (airports) have been instructed to strengthen the health screening of travellers. Regarding the confirmed case, the Union health ministry said, "This case is isolated, similar to the earlier 30 cases reported in India from July 2022 onwards". The patient is isolated and is stable, it added.

"The good news is that the strain of concern, clade 1b, is yet to be detected in India. Clade 1b was the strain for which WHO declared a public health emergency. That was because it was relatively new, originating from a different part of Africa than clade 2, was spreading faster, and was more severe," Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, former president of the Indian Medical Association, Cochin said.

BJP, RSS believe women must be at home: Rahul

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

IN his first trip to the US after assuming the role of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack on the BJP and the RSS on Monday calling them downright patriarchal.

Interacting with students at the University of Texas, the Congress leader said: "The BJP and RSS believe that women should be restricted to a particular role... that they should stay at home, cook food, and not talk too much. But we (Congress) believe that women should be allowed to aspire to whatever they want to do."

He also observed that the RSS believes India is one idea, while the Congress considers it a multiplicity of ideas.

Rahul Gandhi's three-day visit comes ahead of the US presidential elections in November.

Addressing the Indian diaspora in Dallas, he claimed that the 'fear of BJP' disappeared immediately after the 2024 Lok Sabha election results came out. "Within minutes of the election result, nobody was scared of the BJP and the Prime Minister of India. These are huge achievements, not of Rahul Gandhi or Congress, but of the people of India who realised we are not going to accept an attack on the Constitution," he said.

He added that everyone, regardless of caste, language, or religion, should have the freedom to express themselves. "This is the fight and this fight was crystallised during the elections when millions of Indians realised that the prime minister was attacking the Constitution," he said.

NIA charges four accused in B'luru cafe blast case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday chargesheeted four accused in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case. Mussavir Hussain Shazib, Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taaha, Maaz Muneer Ahmed and Muzammil Shareef, who are in judicial custody, have been charge-sheeted under IPC, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UA(P)A, Explosive Substances Act (ESA) and the Prevention of Destruction & Loss (PDLP) Act. Nine people were injured in the IED explosion on March 1 at the cafe in Brookfield, ITPL, Bengaluru. P3

Waking up to shrieking alarm? It may shoot up your BP

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

WAKING up to the sound of an alarm clock in the morning can cause a significant surge in blood pressure, with a 74% increase compared to those who wake up naturally, according to a recent study by UVA Health.

This abrupt awakening, driven by alarms, can trigger a "morning blood pressure surge," a routine rise in blood pressure that occurs naturally but is significantly heightened by sudden wake-ups, the study stated.

This spike in blood pressure puts stress on the heart and veins, potentially activating the "fight or flight" response, which forces the heart to work harder and can lead to fatigue, breathing trouble and other symptoms.

The study, conducted by a nursing student for the University of Virginia Health System, which conducts monthly surveys, warns that this heightened blood pressure surge could lead to serious heart issues, including heart attacks or strokes.

The effects are even more pronounced among individuals, who already have heart conditions, as the additional stress from an abrupt wake-up can escalate into a severe health emergency.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Natural light should be allowed into the room to gradually reduce melatonin production and help the body wake up naturally

Expert

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